GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3439
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001
HARVESTING OF RAIN WATER
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether harvesting of rain water is the need of the hour even though it can only supplement and not replace the traditional source of water;

(b) if so, whether any directions have also been given by the Hon`ble Supreme Court in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to implement those directions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)to(d): The Ministry of Water Resources has reported that the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 10.12.96 had directed the Central Govt. to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as an authority under Section-3 (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management and development. In pursuance of the said orders, the Government have constituted the Central Ground Water Authority vide notification dated 14.1.1997. As per the Notification, the Authority has to exercise the following powers:-

(i) Exercise of Powers under Section-5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and taking such measures in respect of all the matters reffered to in sub section(2) of Section-3 of the said Act.

(ii) To resort to the penal provisions contained in Sections, 15 to 21 of the said Act.

(iii) To regulate indiscriminatte boring and withdrawal of ground water in the country and to issue regulatory directions with a view to preserve and protect the ground water.

Ever since its constitution, the Authority has adopted pro-active approach and is sensitising users at various levels with regard to the need for judicious use and scientific management of ground water resources through mass awareness programmes. The Authority has notified certain areas in NCT of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P. and Diu with a view to control depletion of ground water level.